

Message Text

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ACTION L-02

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EFIN, IT

SUBJ: ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS OF PLANNED EXTRADITION OF SINDONA

PASS TREASURY FOR COMPTROLLER OF CURRENCY; PASS SEC; PASS FDIC

1. ITALIAN PRESS AND TV ON FEBRUARY 18 AND 19 REPORT
THAT ITALIAN AUTHORITIES PLAN TO REQUEST USG TO GRANT
EXTRADITION OF ITALIAN FINANCIER MICHELE SINDONAM

2. FOLLOWING IS TYPICAL ARTICLE (WHICH APPEARED IN TURIN'S
/LA STAMPA/ ON FEBRUARY 19):

3 /QUOTE/: A REQUEST FOR THE EXTRADITION OF BANKER
MICHELE SINDONA FROM THE US WILL BE PRESENTED WITHIN THE
NEXT FEW DAYS. THE SINDONA CASE IS PRESENTLY UNDER STUDY
BY THE ITALIAN AND AMERICAN MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE PENDING
RATIFICATION OF THE RELEVANT AGREEMENTS CONCERNING RULES
OF RECIPROCITY WHICH REGULATE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE
TWO COUNTRIES AS REGARDS FINANCIAL OFFENSES SUCH AS THOSE
OF WHICH SINDONA IS ACCUSED. IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER, THE ITALIAN
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE WILL MAKE A FORMAL REQUEST TO THE AMERICAN
GOVERNMENT FOR EXTRADITION.

3. IN THE MEANTIME, THROUGH NORMAL JUDICIAL CHANNELS
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(PROCURATORE GENERALE OF THE REPUBLIC, MINISTRY OF GRACE AND

JUSTICE, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND ITALIAN EMBASSY IN THE US), THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE OF MILAN, DR. OVIDIO URBISCI, HAS ARRANGED TO TRANSMIT A FURTHER REQUEST FOR PROVISIONAL ARREST OF SINDONA PENDING COMPLETION OF THE EXTRADITION PROCESS.

4. PROVISIONAL ARREST IS PROVIDED FOR IN AN ITALIAN-AMERICAN CONVENTION OF 1868, RECONFIRMED IN 1948, AND IS LIMITED TO 40 DAYS, WITHIN WHICH PERIOD JUDICIAL AUUTHORITIES MUST MAKE A DEFINITIVE DECISION ON EXTRADITION. /END QUOTE/.

5. MILAN'S /CORRIERE DELLA SERA/ ON SAME DAY REPORTS THAT DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS RECEIVED VOLUMINOUS FILE ON PROPOSED REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION AND THAT MILAN PUBLIC PROSECUTOR GUIDO VIOLA HAD ALREADY SOUGHT PROVISIONAL ARREST OF SINDONA FROM US AUTHORITIES ON JANUARY 22, WITH REQUEST HAVING BEEN MADE THROUGH INTERPOL. ARTICLE NOTES THAT NO DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN AS YET BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE. IT ALSO SAYS THAT, WHEN CONTACTED BY TELEPHONE AT HOTEL PIERRE IN NEW YORK, SINDONA DISCLAIMED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF ITALIAN EXTRADITION REQUEST.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE ON ABOVE.VOLPE

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